

## Soviet Cities Vulnerable, Red Defense Chief Says

By Henry S. Bradsher

MOSCOW, Feb. 22 (AP) — The head of Soviet civil defense contradicted a general today and said the Soviet Union's defenses are not capable of knocking out every hostile plane and missile in the event of war.

Marshal Vasily I. Chuikov's warning came on the heels of remarks by a Soviet general who implied that any missiles fired at the Soviet Union would not reach their targets.

These exchanges come at a time when the United States is seeking to head off a Soviet-U.S. Race to develop antiballistics missile (ABM) systems.

Soviet military chiefs have said previously that many attacking missiles could be destroyed by the Soviet defense system, but not all.

### No Guarantees Yet

"Unfortunately," said Chuikov in a television address, "there are no means yet which would guarantee complete security of our towns and most important objects from the blows of the enemy's weapons of mass destruction."

Chuikov said that "in practice it is impossible to intercept completely all modern planes, even more so rockets launched through space. A certain number of them may reach the target."

Chuikov spoke on the eve of Armed Forces Day, anniversary of the Red Army's founding 49 years ago.

His warning contrasted with the claims made by the men on active military duty responsible for the nation's defenses.

Marshal Andrei A. Grechko,

a first deputy Defense Minister, wrote today in the government newspaper Izvestia on the official position.

He repeated a statement last April by the Defense Minister, Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky, that "modern means of anti-aircraft defense of the country provide for reliable destruction of many planes and many rockets of the adversary."

### General's Claim

On Monday, Gen. Pavel G. Kurochkin, head of the nation's leading military academy, told a news conference that missiles fired at the Soviet Union would not reach their target.

"Detecting missiles in time and destroying them in flight is no problem," Kurochkin claimed.

The head of Soviet anti-aircraft defenses, Gen. Pavel F. Batitsky, said in a Tass interview Monday that his troops "can reliably protect the country's territory from an enemy attack by air."

The U.S. position is that there cannot be a fully effective defense against missiles—as Chuikov said today. The Americans argue that it would, therefore, be wasteful to build ABM defenses.

Advertisement